



eptc

Western Administrator **Mike HacsKaylo** helps open the new EPTC. Participants include, from left: **Stan Adcock, Charlie Gray, Steven Frieman, Dennis Schurman, Kaye Weinant, HacsKaylo, Bob Wilson, Doug Medina and Gary Zevenbergen.**

EPTC—a new face with new goals

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—Dennis Schurman

Change and challenge. Those are the words floating around the Electric Power Training Center these days. Change has come with recent remodeling of the Golden, Colo.-based center. Its challenge is to become completely self-sufficient.

“We are working hard at meeting our goals and recovering expenses,” said **Dennis Schurman**, acting EPTC manager. “And I am confident we will meet those goals in the near future.”

After 18 months of remodeling, the center was dedicated March 31 with a formal ribbon-cutting ceremony and tours for both Western employees and invited guests.

Changes to the facility include enhancements to the Miniature Power System, a 650-square-foot student lounge, a new computer training room and face lifting paint and carpeting throughout. The power system—the only simulator of its kind in the United States—will also be upgraded with a simulation pumping plant, expected to be up and running by summer 2001.

Schurman said that senior managers had talked of scrapping the training center back in the early '90s. Fortunately, the decision was never adopted, and thoughts turned to actually enhancing the link between the EPTC and the Bureau of

Reclamation. Since those days the staff has grown from one to five trainers and a support staff of four. The center earns a large portion of its keep through student tuition—not only from Western, but also from other Federal agencies and outside entities. Schurman says the EPTC is on track for meeting its goal of \$540,000 tuition income by year's end.

At any given time classes are taking place at the EPTC. Prices range from \$975 for the Electric Power for Non-technical Staff course to \$2,900 for Power Plant Operations Training. The EPTC gets the bulk of its clients, or students, from the Bureau of Reclamation (40 percent). The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers provides 22 percent of the clientele. Electric utilities and other agencies comprise part of the student base. Today, Western employees get a break of 50 percent on training costs. But with the challenge to become self-sufficient, that break will drop to 10 percent this October. Leasing its training and conference rooms is another means by which EPTC hopes to support itself.

This June the EPTC will issue a new catalog of courses through 2001.

For more information, check out the EPTC web page at **www.wapa.gov/cso/eptc** or call **Kaye Weinant** at 720-962-7800 for courses or to tour the renovated facility. 